

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 SSC-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /139 W

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R 291545Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9767

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NY

USEUCOM

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

DIA WASHDC//DI-5//

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2752

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CY

SUBJ: NEN APPOINTMENTS

1. AUGUST 28 GOCYPRUS ANNOUNCED THAT NICOS KOSSIS HAD BEEN SWORN IN AS INTERIOR MINISTER, AND THAT JOHN CHRISTOPHIDES CONTINUES AS FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. TWO MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS EXPECTED TODAY: (1) CHRIS CHRISTODOULOU TO REPLACE ANDREAS PARISINOS AS UNDER SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT, AND (2) SAVVAS ANTONIOU TO RESUME OLD JOB AS CHIEF OF POLICE.

3. COMMENT: FIRST SET OF CHANGES WILL RELIEVE CLERIDES OF TWO MAJOR PORTFOLIOS WHICH HE RETAINED WHEN CABINET RESHUFFLED SOME WEEKS AGO. BASED ON THEIR PAST PERFORMANCE, WE DOUBT EITHER CHRISTOPHIDESOR ANTONIOU HAS SUFFICIENT DEPTH OR TOUGHNESS TO HANDLE JOB. CHRISTODOULOU IS VERY ABLE MAN WITH STRONG
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CONSTITUENCY IN FIGHTER GROUPS WHICH HE LEADS; HE WAS FY 1974

IV GRANTEE. KOSSIS IS FORMER EOKA HERO, LEADING BUSINESSMAN AND PUBLISHER OF CLERIDES' INFORMAL PAPER, "AGON". HE GENERALLY RANKED IN RIGHTWING OF CLERIDES UP. (HE HAS BEEN MEMBER HOUSE SINCE 1960.) KOSSIS LENDS STRONGRIGHTWING COLORING TO OTHERWISE MODERATE, NONDISTINGUISHED GROUP OF MINISTERS. DIFFICULT TO SAY HOW CAPABLE AN EXECUTIVE HE WILL PROVE TO BE.

4. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT ANDREAS CHRISTOPHIDES WILL REGAIN 590 SLOT AT CBC.

5. GENERAL DRIFT OF OLD, IF NOT DISTINGUISHED, WORKHORSES BACK INTO JOBS HELD UNDER MAKARIOS WILL AT LEAST PROVIDE CLERIDES WITH FUNCTIONING BUREAUCRACY. THIS TREND ALSO DEMONSTRATES (AS WE POINTED OUT IN EARLIER MESSAGE) CLERIDES' CURRENT, AND PERHAPS FLEETING, STRENGTH VIS A VIS THE HARDCORE RIGHTISTS. WHILE KOSSIS APPOINTMENT COULD BE VIEWED AS EFFORT PACIFY RIGHT WING, HE HAS BEEN CLOSE TO CLERIDES FOR YEARS AND IT IS NOT SURPRISING HE BROUGHT INTO CABINET AT THIS TIME.

6. CHRISTOPHIDES RETURN AT THIS JUNCTURE DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR USG EFFORTS RESOLVE CURRENT CRISIS. WHEN HE CAME TO SIGN CONDOLENCE BOOK FOR AMB. DAVIES, HE LECTURED DCM TO EFFECT THAT IOANNIDES WAS CIA AGENT AND TURKISH INVASION WAS PART OF US PLAN. WITH THIS MENTAL FIX, SUSPECT WE WILL HAVE TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH CLERIDES ON ANY INITIATIVES WE MAY SEEK TO UNDERTAKE. BROWN

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